

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Wisconsin
COUNTY:	Outagamie
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	DEC 2 1974

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Hearthstone

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Rogers, Henry J., House

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

625 W. Prospect Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Appleton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Eighth

STATE

Wisconsin

CODE

55

COUNTY:

Outagamie

CODE

087

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mares, Mr. Harold D.

STREET AND NUMBER:

625 W. Prospect Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Appleton

STATE:

Wisconsin

CODE

55

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Outagamie County Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

410 S. Walnut Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Appleton

STATE:

Wisconsin

CODE

55

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Plan, Vol. II, The Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

STREET AND NUMBER:

816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Madison

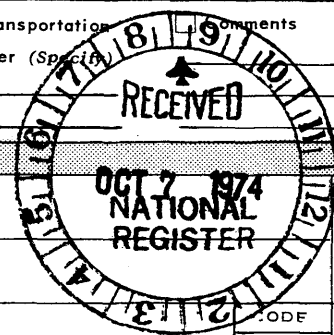
STATE:

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☒ Excellent    ☐ Good    ☐ Fair    ☐ Deteriorated    ☐ Ruins    ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered    ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved    ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry J. Rogers house, also known as Hearth Stone, is a brick, Queen Anne house of 1880-82. It has been attributed to William Waters of Oshkosh, one of the foremost architects of the Fox River Valley. The rambling masses of the house are emphasized by the variety of roof-lines, gables, chimneys, dormers and verandas, and by the multiplicity of materials used. The house is done in a light-colored brick which is accentuated by darker brick, by half-timbering, and by shingles. The Rogers house required three years to build. The first year, the foundation of river-bed rock was laid and allowed to cure, and the lumber used in the house was dried in the basement by a fire kept going all winter. The second year the wooden structure and brick bearing walls were built, and the house was substantially finished on the outside. In the third summer all plastering and finishing was done. Besides its architectural interest, the Rogers house is decorated and furnished with fine Victorian decorative arts including stained-glass Tiffany lampshades, rosewood furniture, art-glass, and oriental rugs. One interesting content of the house is an 1878 silver service by the Racine Silver-Plate Company, the only silversmithing company ever located in Wisconsin. The porches and verandas have elaborately-carved wood spindles and panels which reflect the even higher quality of the wood detailing throughout the interior of the house. All the woodcarving was done by Henry VanStrom, a European craftsman brought to Appleton by the Rogers family especially for work on their house. Woods used include Wisconsin white oak, cherry and bird's-eye maple. The house was electrically lighted soon after its completion and some of the original electrical fixtures remain. The original electrical insulators were in the form of wooden cleats which were nailed to the rafters. Porcelain tubing was run through the joists to carry wiring. The wiring itself was insulated and silk-wrapped. Toggle switches turned the lights on and off. These were hand-made of brass and can still be found in seven places in the house. There were originally nine fireplaces in the Rogers house decorated with Minton tile in scenes from various literary works. For instance, in the foyer the fireplace bore scenes from Shakespeare's plays; there were tiles illustrating the novels of Sir Walter Scott in the library; in the living room, tiles portrayed Longfellow's Evangeline feeding the bluebirds; and in the master bedroom, the fireplace was decorated with scenes from Dickens' Pickwick Papers.

An extensive restoration and renovation program has been carried out by the house's present owners, the H.D. Mares family. This has included cleaning the exterior brick, installing a new roof, replacement of a few porch posts and rails with custom-made duplicates, and a complete re-wiring of the house.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1880-1882

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric☐ Historic☐ Agriculture☒ Architecture☒ Art☐ Commerce☐ Communications☐ Conservation☐ Education☒ Engineering☐ Industry☐ Invention☐ Landscape☐ Architecture☐ Literature☐ Military☐ Music☐ Political☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science☐ Sculpture☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater☐ Transportation☐ Urban Planning☐ Other (Specify)local history

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hearth Stone is interesting architecturally as an example of a fine Queen Anne house still in excellent condition. The hand-crafted interior woodwork as well as the fine stained-glass, Minton tiles, and antique furniture make it important for Victorian decorative arts as well. A further significance of Hearth Stone is historical. It was built by Henry J. Rogers an industrialist who had come to Appleton from the East. Rogers' wife missed the social life of her native Baltimore, and Rogers is said to have built Hearth Stone to provide her with elegant surroundings which would reconcile her to life in the West. Rogers was a friend of H.E. Jacobs who in 1882 had taken a job with Thomas Edison. Jacobs convinced Rogers that electricity was the wave of the future, and Rogers devised a scheme to light Hearth Stone, the Vulcan Paper Mill, and the Appleton Paper and Pulp Mill electrically. A generator was purchased from Thomas Edison, and Rogers and three other men founded the Appleton Edison Light Company, Ltd., using the Fox River as their source of power. On September 30, 1882, Hearth Stone was illuminated electrically for the first time.

This first operation of the Appleton plant followed the opening of Thomas Edison's steam operated Pearl Street Station by only twenty-six days; and Edison's plant was not originally used to light any buildings used solely for residential purposes, though it did light some houses associated with industrial purposes. Thus, Hearth Stone was the first residence in America to be lighted from a centrally-located power plant.

Hearthstone is a Wisconsin Registered Landmark.



# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mares, H.D. "Hearth Stone," an unpublished pamphlet on the house. Ten pages.

Schubert, W.E., Letter of November 25, 1963 to Mr. Raymond Sivesind, Supervisor of the Office of Sites and Markers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Page 1.

"Plan to Save Pioneer House," The Milwaukee Journal, April 7, 1963, pp. 1-2.

No UTM  
HM

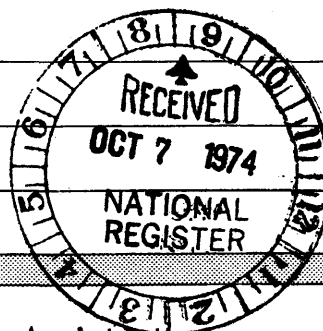
# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	N44	15	16
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	W88	24	54
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Charlene Stant Engel, Preservation Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: State Historical Society of Wisconsin DATE: July 13, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:  
816 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Madison STATE: Wisconsin CODE: 55

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name James Morton Smith  
James Morton Smith  
Title Director, State Historical Society of Wisconsin

Date Oct. 1, 1974

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/2/74

ATTEST:

Atty. General  
Keeper of The National Register

Date Nov. 26, 1974